

IN*

FREE
LIKE WE ALL
SHOULD BE

A COLLECTIVE VIEW
OF MODERN SOCIETY

READ RAHEKI'S POEM

BONDAGE

ON PAGE 12

I HAVE A COMIC BOOK MENTOR AND GURU. THERE ARE SEVERAL IN CHARLOTTE, REALLY. TOM DAVIDSON HOSTED A CARTOONING CLUB OF CHARLOTTE IN WHICH HE DISSECTED AND ANALYZED COMIC BOOKS, COMIC BOOK ARTISTS AND THEIR STYLES, AND HE COULD SEE THINGS ON A PAGE THAT I WOULD NEVER SEE IN A MILLION YEARS.

IT WAS HE WHO RECOMMENDED SCOTT MCCLOUD'S SERIES OF BOOKS "UNDERSTANDING COMICS: THE INVISIBLE ART," "REINVENTING COMICS: THE EVOLUTION OF AN ART FORM" AND OTHERS. MCCLOUD CONSIDERS COMICS AS POSSIBLY THE TRUEST ART FORM BECAUSE IT REQUIRES READERS TO FILL IN THE BLANKS AND PARTICIPATE IN THE TELLING OF A STORY. COMICS ARE A COMBINATION OF ART AND TEXT, AND THE RATIO OF EACH CAN VARY WIDELY.

ANOTHER BOOK THAT DAVIDSON SUGGESTED WAS WILL EISNER'S "A CONTRACT WITH GOD" WHICH IS CONSIDERED BY MANY THE EPITOME OF A GRAPHIC NOVEL. EISNER BROKE ALL OF THE RULES WHEN IT CAME TO PANELS, THE USE OF TEXT AS GRAPHIC IMAGES AND PAGE LAYOUT.

MCCLOUD ASKED WHY COMICS WEREN'T CONSIDERED A TRUE ART FORM LIKE LITERATURE AND FINE ART PAINTINGS. NOT ALL COMICS DEPICT SUPERHEROES FIGHTING DECADES-LONG BATTLES THAT GO NOWHERE.

SO I THOUGHT, "WHY NOT JUST DO IT? WHY NOT GATHER THE GREAT TALENT IN THIS CITY AND CREATE A COMIC THAT IS VISUALLY EXPERIMENTAL, MAKES AN HONEST COMMENT ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND TRIES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR MODERN WORLD?"

THESE ARE TURBULENT TIMES, AND WE HAVE A LOT TO PROTEST. I'M NOT HEARING ANY PROTEST SONGS, AND I CERTAINLY DON'T SEE ANY PROTEST COMICS.

SO I DECIDED TO CREATE A SELF-PUBLISHED, GUERRILLA-STYLE COMIC THAT IS INSPIRED BY THE BEAT POETS AND UNDERGROUND COMICS OF THE '60S. THIS IS AN ANTHOLOGY THAT DRAWS UPON THE VISION OF A VARIETY OF WRITERS AND ARTISTS WITH DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW. IT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE AND AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.COM.

FEEL FREE TO SPREAD THE WORD AND EVEN CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING YOURSELF. TELL US WHAT YOU THINK OF THIS EDITION BY SENDING AN EMAIL TO INXCOMIC@GMAIL.COM.



Making America Great

Lying's so useful it's now all we do.
Repeating our lies makes it seem like they're true.

We're lying to them while we're lying to you,

We lie if you're gay or you're straight.

We lie before nine, and we lie after noon,

We lie in between 'cause it's never too soon.

We lie from July all year round right through June,

We're making America great.

We lie to our lawyers, we lie to the press.

We lie very bluntly, we lie with finesse.

We lie to make failure appear like success.

Deception's our dominant trait.

We lie to the whites and we lie to the blacks;

We lie first to make and then cover our tracks

We lie that our lies are alternative facts.

We're making America great.

We lie for aggression, we lie for detente.

We lie when we need to,

we lie when we want.

And sometimes we lie as a fact-checker's taunt.

We'll lie a new lie while you wait.

We lie as a tactic, we lie just for fun;

We lie out in groups,

and we lie one-on-one;

We lie when we start out,

we lie when we're done.

We're making America great.

We lie that whatever was in is now out;

We lie to transmute what was truth into doubt;

We're lying about what we're lying about.

We lie as we're spreading our hate.

And soon we'll say nineteens are turned into twelves,

That things on the floor are the things on the shelves,

We'll gaslight you 'til you will lie to yourselves.

We're making America great.

— Marcus Bales



art by Karla Holland



0!
THOU
SHALT NOT
EAT OF THE
TREE OF
KNOWLEDGE!

Newsweek

CBS
NEWS

BBC
NEWS

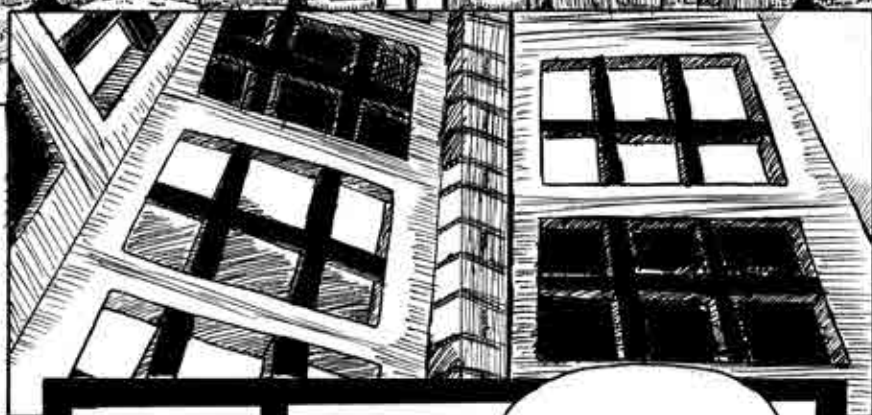
CNN

npr

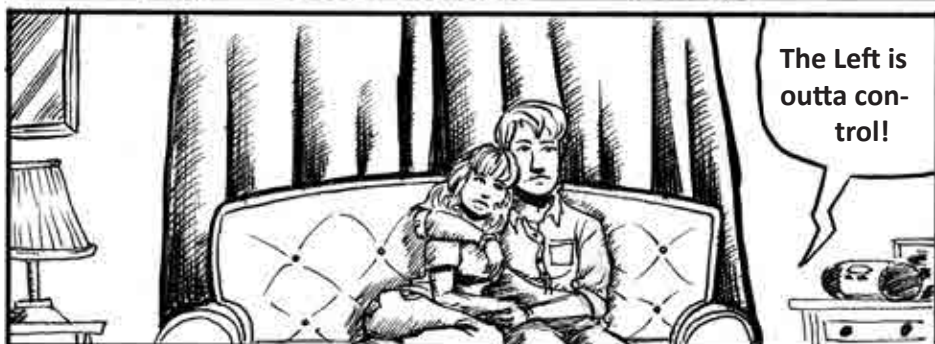
MSNBC

AMERICA

AL BIGLEY '18



GOOOOD AFTER-
NOON MY BEAUTIFUL
VIEWERS!





THEY HATE
OUR
COUNTRY



THEY'VE ALLIED THEMSELVES
WITH OUR ENEMIES



THEY ARE

THEY WANT TO STRIP US OF
OUR FREEDOMS



EVIL INCARNATE







BONDAGE



You cannot set me free
You cannot open the gates
To free me
Or allow my destined escape
You cannot control my demise
Or determine my destiny

You cannot make me fear
The weapons u carry
The riches u show
The power u hold
It's all but an illusion of nothing
Wanting to be something

You cannot set me free
For I have freed myself...

I have learned my name...

-Raheku

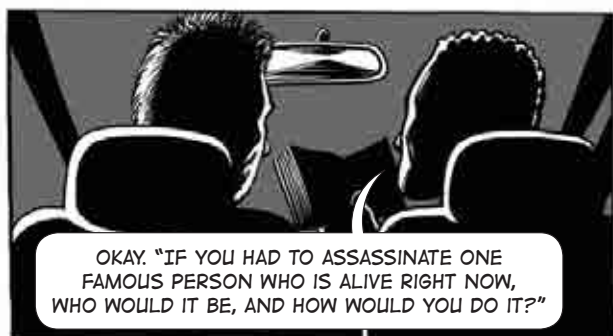
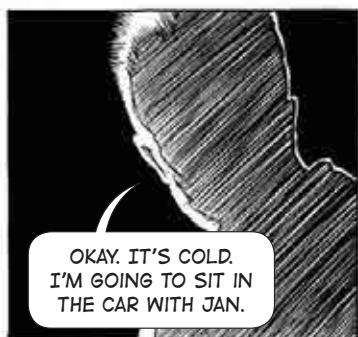
art by Greg Russell

LIVING IN FEAR

WRITTEN AND
ILLUSTRATED BY
GREG RUSSELL











I'M PET-SITTING, AND THE FAMILY HAS A NEW ALARM.



OKAY. CALL THE FAMILY SO WE CAN VERIFY THAT.

THEY'RE IN PARIS AND PROBABLY ASLEEP.



I'LL TAKE A LOOK INSIDE.



HOW ARE YA, BIG GIRL?



EVERYTHING CHECKS OUT. YOU'RE FREE TO GO.

THE END?

THAT'S THE END IN ONE REALITY. BUT AFTER SEEING THE TERRIFYING NEWS REPORTS WEEK AFTER WEEK, THIS REALITY IS THE FEAR OF EVERY PARENT OF CHILDREN OF COLOR.

IT'S COLD. JAN AND I ARE GOING TO STARBUCKS FOR SOME COFFEE WHILE WE WAIT FOR YOU.

SEE YA!

SLAM!

UH-OH!

VRROOM!

BEEP!
BEEEP! BE
BEEEP! B









GUNS DON'T KILL PEOPLE...

Psychopath in
a schoolyard
with a gun.



Psychopath in
a schoolyard
without a gun.



.IN* ISSUE #1.2 CONTRIBUTORS



P. 3 MAKING AMERICA GREAT

MARCUS BALES WRITER

NOT MUCH IS KNOWN ABOUT MARCUS, EXCEPT HE LIVES AND WORKS IN CLEVELAND, OH, HIS POEMS HAVE NOT APPEARED IN POETRY OR THE NEW YORKER, AND HE HAS BEEN UNFRIENDED ON FACEBOOK BY MARJORIE PERLOFF.



KARLA HOLLAND ARTIST

KARLA IS A WILMINGTON-BASED GRAPHIC DESIGNER AND ILLUSTRATOR. A FORMER RESIDENT OF THE QUEEN CITY, SHE LEFT HER MARK IN THE ARTS COMMUNITY INCLUDING SKETCHCHARLOTTE, TANGENTS MAGAZINE AND THE CHARLOTTE ART LEAGUE. SHE CONTINUES TO CONTEMPLATE ART'S NAVEL THROUGH HER SKETCHES ON INSTAGRAM AT @THEGORGONTRANSPLANT. FEEL FREE TO CONTACT HER AT THEGORGONTRANSPLANT@GMAIL.COM.



P. 4 NO! THOU SHALT NOT EAT OF THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

AL BIGLEY WRITER/ARTIST

AL IS AN AWARD-WINNING ARTIST/ILLUSTRATOR WHO HAS PROVIDED ARTWORK FOR MARVEL COMICS, DC COMICS, DISNEY, KENNER, NASCAR, CTW AND SO MANY MORE. SEE HIS WORK AT ALBIGLEY.COM.



P. 6 US AND THEM

ABDUL HAKIM SHABAZZ WRITER/ARTIST

ABDUL IS A CHARLESTON-BASED ILLUSTRATOR WHO LOVES MOVIES AND GRAPHIC NOVELS, ESPECIALLY HORROR. HE HAS ILLUSTRATED FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS BUT ALSO ENJOYS DOING COMIC ART. HIS WORK CAN BE SEEN ON INSTAGRAM @MR.SHABAZZ AND HIS WEBSITE MRSHABAZZ.COM.



P. 12 BONDAGE

RAHEKU WRITER

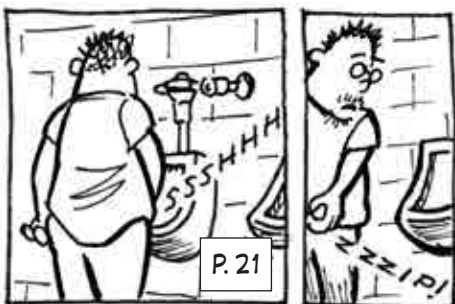
RAHEKU IS A CREATOR OF MANY TALENTS INCLUDING POETRY. SHE IS ORIGINALLY FROM LIBERIA AND COMES TO CHARLOTTE VIA LONG ISLAND AND PHILADELPHIA.



P. 13 LIVING IN FEAR

GREG RUSSELL WRITER/ARTIST

GREG IS A TRUE CHARLATAN, BORN AND RAISED IN CHARLOTTE. HE IS A GRAPHIC DESIGNER, ILLUSTRATOR, PHOTOGRAPHER, WEB DESIGNER, WRITER AND EDITOR, BUT HIS FAVORITE THING TO DO IS DRAW COMICS. SEE EXAMPLES OF HIS WORK AT GREGRUSSELL.US



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